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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/651,843	08/29/2003	Richard L. Wilder	IGTIP277/P000798-001	8136
79646 7590 01/15/2010 Weaver Austin Villeneuve & Sampson LLP - IGT Attn: IGT P.O. Box 70250 Oakland, CA 94612-0250				
EXAMINER				
PANDYA, SUNT				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3714				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/15/2010		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

USPTO@wavsip.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/651,843

Applicant(s)

WILDER ET AL.

Examiner

SUNIT PANDYA

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/23/09.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/23/09 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

This action is in response to amendments filed on 11/23/2009, wherein the examiner acknowledges that claims 1, 5, 7 & 15 have been amended by the applicant, no additional claims have been added or canceled; consequently, claims 1-3 & 5-20 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-13 & 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rowe et al. (US Patent Publication 2001/0044337).

Claims 1, 7, 9, 15 & 19: Rowe et al. discloses a system configured to offer a wagering event to a player comprising, multiple gaming terminals, wherein each terminal contains a display, to display wagering event information to the players (0025 & figure 3, wherein element 24 is one of multiple portable gaming devices with display for displaying wagering information). Rowe et al. also discloses a player interface to receive inputs from players (figure 3, element 104, which are buttons for player inputs), and a monetary interface or card interface to accept wager from players (figure 3, element 140 card input slot & 0027 discloses monetary input interface). Rowe et al. also discloses a switch, configured to communicate with each game component housed within the housing of each terminal (figure 3 wherein all input modules are in communication with the game system), a memory to store machine readable game codes, for a first game type and a second game type, wherein the first game type is different than the second game type (0036 discloses memory to store game codes for each of game device, wherein each game device has plurality of player selectable games and each device is capable of playing one of plurality of games available[0025]). Rowe et al. also discloses an audio interface having multiple channels configured to communicate with multiple gaming terminals (0075, wherein each game device is independent of each other, thus, Rowe et al. inherently discloses multi-channel transmission). Rowe et al. further discloses a central processor remote from the gaming terminals to access the memory to execute the machine readable game code to concurrently offer a game to the players at different terminals (0058), wherein the game

terminals relying on the central processor, and wherein each of the terminals are lacking processors (0059 & 0061).

Claims 2 & 3: Rowe et al. discloses a touch screen display, that is configured as the player interface (0040)

Claims 5 & 6: Rowe et al. discloses the processor, which is part of the control module, in communication with the gaming terminals via a network (0059).

Claims 8 & 16: Rowe et al. discloses a communication interface comprising a network interface card (0047 & 0093).

Claim 10: Rowe et al. discloses control module device comprising, a processor, a memory, video adapter and audio adapter (0059-0060).

Claim 11: Rowe et al. discloses one or more terminal comprising a video adapter (figure 3).

Claims 12 & 13: Rowe et al. discloses memory and processor being remote from the game terminals (at a server, 0059), wherein the processor communicates with multiple gaming terminals through a network (0047 & 0093).

Claims 17 & 20: Rowe et al. discloses a single controller controlling multiple wagering events (0036 & 0059-0061).

Claim 18: Rowe et al. discloses a control module comprising a personal computer (0059-0061) and each gaming terminal comprises a display and a player interface (figure 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowe et al. in view of Stepan et al. (US Patent 4,621,814).

Claim 14: Rowe et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Rowe et al. fails to disclose having multiple gaming terminals within the same housing. Stepan teaches an amusement device housing that allows multiple gaming devices to be placed in the same housing (see figure 1 and abstract). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the gaming device disclosed by Rowe et al., to allow multiple gaming devices to be placed in the same housing thus reducing space being occupied by multiple gaming machines in a gaming facility.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 & 5-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The examiner, in the rejection above, has cited particular paragraph and figure numbers from the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the

applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SUNIT PANDYA whose telephone number is (571)272-2823. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on 571-272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JAMES S. MCCLELLAN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714

SP